

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6803

BILL NUMBER: SB 226

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 1, 2008

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Disposal of Municipal Utility Property.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Hershman

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that a municipality that seeks to sell or dispose of nonsurplus municipally owned utility property must adopt an ordinance appointing three Indiana residents to serve as appraisers, as follows: (1) One disinterested freeholder residing in the municipality. (2) Two disinterested persons, each of whom must be a licensed appraiser or a licensed engineer (as opposed to both being required to be licensed appraisers under current law). It eliminates the requirement that one of the nonfreeholder appraisers must reside not more than 50 miles from the property.

Additionally, the bill provides that if the municipality decides to proceed with the sale or disposition after the return of the appraisal, the municipality shall adopt an ordinance for the sale or disposition. The bill also provides that not later than 45 days after the return of the appraisal, the municipality shall publish notice of a hearing on the ordinance for the sale or disposition. (Current law provides for the adoption of the ordinance after the hearing on the sale or disposition.) This bill allows a municipality to proceed to sell or dispose of the property if a petition opposing the sale or disposition is not filed within 30 days after the notice of hearing. (Current law provides that a municipality shall proceed to sell or dispose of the property if a petition is not filed within the 30-day period.)

Effective Date: July 1, 2008.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Summary-* The bill requires that a municipality seeking to sell or

dispose of nonsurplus municipally owned utility property appoint three Indiana residents to serve as appraisers, two of which may be licensed appraisers *or* licensed engineers. Current law requires the appointment of *two licensed appraisers*. The increase in expenditures would depend on whether or not two of the municipality's appointees were licensed appraisers or licensed engineers, the price of which may vary by locality.

Background- In regard to the construction or acquisition of utility property, Indiana Code 8-1.5-2-8 provides that before a municipality proposes to construct or acquire a utility, the municipality may appropriate out of its general fund an amount not exceeding 5% of the total estimated cost of constructing or acquiring the utility, as necessary to pay the expenses of a preliminary investigation, surveys, plans, specifications, and appraisals, including engineering and legal expenses. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2006 the average hourly wage of licensed engineers and licensed appraisers were \$28.53 and \$20.74, respectively.

Explanation of Local Revenues: The proceeds of any sale under the provisions of this bill are to be paid into the treasury of the municipality making the sale and become part of the municipality's general fund. The fiscal impact is indeterminable and would depend upon the volume of property sold and the selling price of each property, all of which would vary by locality.

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Municipalities.

Information Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2006.

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